

# Civil Defense Heads Hear Veteran of London Blitz

"Civil Defense saved England during the Blitz," leaders of the city's Civil Defense program and members of the Torrance branch of the American Red Cross were told here last week.

Sparking to members of the Red Cross and Civil Defense leaders from Torrance and neighboring communities was Mrs. Alice J. Cooper, of London, England, who is now in California studying techniques developed by the state's Civil Defense leaders.

"I would not only say that the Civil Defense training saved London," Mrs. Cooper said in response to a question put to her by the city's assistant director of Civil Defense, George Powell, "but I would say that the training which the British had undergone between Munich and the Blitz, saved the whole of England."

## SURVEYS TRAINING

During the war, Mrs. Cooper was a Civil Defense instructor in London. Following the war, she went to British Columbia, where she became a municipal organizer and instructor. She has been attending Civil Defense courses in California until recently and is now visiting various parts of the state to survey the extent of the training

on the West Coast. A series of questions prepared by Powell were answered by Mrs. Cooper, who went through the terrible bombings of London, which included one period when the city was bombed each night for 57 nights.

**INTERESTED EARLY**  
Mrs. Cooper said she became interested in such training in 1936 when at the home of a friend. A child in the home was badly burned and it was some time before medical attention could be provided. In the meantime, the visitor said, there was no one available who knew any first aid and could ease the child's suffering.

Inquiry by Mrs. Cooper showed that the government was providing a pool of instructors and was training persons under the supervision of Army officers, but that public acceptance

was apathetic—even hostile. Those trying to teach Civil Defense were called war mongers.

Following the affair at Munich, the attitude toward such training changed, she said, because people realized for the first time that England was only an hour and twenty minutes away from being bombed at any time.

**CENTERS SET UP**  
Demonstration centers were set up to train volunteers in first aid and home nursing and these centers were later used as first aid centers when the bombings began.

The residents of London had their sand buckets and pumps and knew how to use them shortly after Munich, said Mrs. Cooper.

"We knew what England was in for," she said.

The Blitz later proved the wisdom of such training, the instructor said.

"People were emotionally disciplined—they could take orders," she explained.

"The stabilizing effect of having simple, routine duties dur-

ing such a crisis can mean the difference between a controlled fear and panic," she added. "We often had people move things from one place to another just to keep them occupied."

**HAZARDS LEARNED**  
Training to recognize various contaminations, and the dangers of the varied hazards of bombings such as dust, fumes, fallen electrical wires, and others is invaluable, she warned.

Speaking of the activities of women in the Civil Defense program during the war, Mrs. Cooper said that the women's work at first was confined to the Women's Medical Service and to driving ambulances and cars of visiting dignitaries.

However, she said, the program has been expanded now to the point where women make up more than 50 per cent of the personnel in the Civil Defense organization.

"The women are trained in nursing and light rescue, and are being given the responsibility of providing temporary shelters, clothing, food, and other necessities to those thousands made homeless in such an attack.

**LITTLE THINGS COUNT**  
"It's the little things that count as much as an elaborate defense program," she said.

Something the planners hadn't thought of, she explained, was that persons going through the bombings, especially older persons, would become separated from their dentures. It's hard to feed persons who have no teeth, she said, and there were few dentists around to handle the demand for dentures.

Often persons would lose their identification and the reuniting of families, especially when there were small children involved, became a major problem.

Following the war, the English government tried to keep Civil Defense going as a way of life, Mrs. Cooper said. However, the program began to falter again because people could not see the use of it.

**PROGRAM REVIVED**  
In 1948, though, Britons realized the seriousness of the Communist threat in Europe and the CD program was reactivated

much as it had existed during the war.

"They are now preparing their defense for two types of warfare," Mrs. Cooper said. First, the program is centered around the first aid and rescue needed for conventional bombing, such as London underwent during World War II. In this type of training, the worker is taught to work from the inside out—that is, start at the bomb center with the rescue work and first aid and move outward towards the perimeter until the blast area has been covered.

Preparations for an A-bomb attack are made in the reverse of the former, she said. In this case, rescue workers are forced to start at the perimeter of the bombed area and work toward the center.

**PLEASED HERE**  
Mrs. Cooper said she was "very pleased" with the Civil Defense preparations she had seen in the United States, but that she would like to "see more instructors, and would prefer to see more preparation."

She did say, however, that there appeared to be some very sound thinking on the part of the leaders in Civil Defense in America.

Among those present at the meeting were City Manager

## Pacific Hills Home Site of Art Exhibit

David Carlin, a Los Angeles artist, Sunday held a showing of his paintings at the Pacific Hills home of Joseph Bennett, 3118 Cricklevood.

This marked the first time Carlin has put his work on display. The 29-year-old painter specializes in South Pacific scenes and portraits.

Bennett, an art enthusiast, said that Carlin now plans to hold an exhibit for the general public early next year in Long Beach or Los Angeles. Thirty persons attended the showing in Bennett's home.

## FERRIS WHEEL

The first ferris wheel was erected during the time of the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893. Its inventor was G. W. G. Ferris.

## WIDE RIVER

The Amazon is more than 1 1/2 miles wide at some points.

George Stevens, Fire Chief J. J. Benner, and Civil Defense leaders from Inglewood, Palms Verdes, Gardena, and other nearby communities.



DESCRIBES BLITZ... Mrs. Alice J. Cooper (left), visiting here from London, England, describes her country's Civil Defense plan to George Powell, assistant director of Civil Defense, and Mrs. Don Hyde, chairman of the Torrance Branch of the American Red Cross.—Herald Photo.

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Five members of the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce are busy today making final compilations for their selection of the best Christmas display in local business windows.

Headed by Chairman Tony Ryback, the committee of Don Carpenter, Wayne Morse, Cliff Taylor and John D. Ornellas will name the best display sometime before Christmas.

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